

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I was away from the floor of the House on Monday, June 26, 2000, to attend to official business in my congressional district. I was unable to cast recorded votes on Rollcalls 322 through 326, relating to Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2001, and on Rollcalls 327 through 330.

Mr. Speaker, I regret not being able to vote on any of these rollcalls, but I particularly regret being unable to cast my vote in favor of Final Passage of the Commerce Appropriations Bill, H.R. 4690. This bill includes funds, which I requested, to repair the National Weather Service Melba Warning Tower in Jefferson Davis County.

Tornadoes and hurricanes are a constant threat and have caused serious damage in our area. I have been working to repair the Melba National Weather Service emergency warning tower, which serves Jones, Covington, Jefferson Davis, Simpson, Lawrence, Marion, Walthall, Lamar & Forrest counties. I am pleased that the Appropriations Committee and the full House recognized the urgent need to repair the Melba Tower.

Mr. Speaker, had I been present for Rollcalls 322 through 330, I would have cast the following votes:

Rollcall 322: "Aye" on the Sanford Amendment to H.R. 4690, to strike the \$8.2 million appropriation for the Asia Foundation in the Department of State.

Rollcall 323: "No" on the Olver Amendment to H.R. 4690, to add a new proviso into the bill (relating to the Kyoto Protocols) which clarifies that the limitations on funds shall not apply to activities which are otherwise authorized by law.

Rollcall 324: "Aye" on the Hostettler Amendment to H.R. 4690, to add a new section which provides that no funds in the bill may be used to enforce, implement, or administer the provisions of the settlement document dated March 17, 2000, between Smith and Wesson and the Department of the Treasury.

Rollcall 325: "Aye" on the Vitter Amendment to H.R. 4690, to add language to the bill prohibiting the use of funds by the State Department to approve the purchase of property in Arlington, VA by the Xinhua News Agency.

Rollcall 326: "Yea" on Passage of H.R. 4690, Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2001.

Rollcall 327: "Yea" on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3417, the Pribilof Islands Transition Act.

Rollcall 328: "Yea" on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, S. 148, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

Rollcall 329: "Yea" on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 4408, a bill to reauthorize the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act.

Rollcall 330: "Yea" on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 3023, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey property to the Greater Yuma Port Authority of Yuma County, Arizona for use as an international port of entry.

HONORING WARREN BELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize Warren Bell for his incredible success in small business and his continued involvement in his community.

Warren first came to work for the family business, Bell's Bialys and Bagels, 20 years ago, under his father Martin, a distinguished businessman. Ten years ago, Warren assumed primary responsibility for operations at Bell's Bialys and Bagels. Under his talent and care the business has expanded tremendously. The company expanded its facilities, added new products and flavors to the supreme "Bell" quality and now ships his products to Japan on a regular basis. Warren has truly perfected the art of small business.

Perhaps Warren's greatest and most commendable success is that despite all the time and energy he has put into his business, he still found time to devote to the finer things in life. His devotion to his community and family is one of a true role model. His years of work with his local school board, temple, neighborhood and borough-wide small business organizations and networking groups provides a great service to the community. Warren currently serves on the Executive Council of "Brooklyn Goes Global" and is an active member of N.A.S.F.T. and the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

In 1989, the Democratic Club of Brooklyn honored Warren and in 1994 he won the Borough President's "Mom and Pop" Award for achievement as a small business. This year Bell's Bialys and Bagels has been awarded the prestigious Small Business Administration's Exporter of the Year Award and the Borough President's Ron Brown Award for commitment to international commerce.

Warren has proven that in business and in public service that he is a man to emulate. He has helped to create jobs and played a major role in the economic growth and development of Brooklyn. I want to take this opportunity to recognize the achievements of Warren Bell, one of Brooklyn's finest residents and entrepreneurs.

PRIBILOF ISLANDS TRANSITION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2000

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in support of this important legislation, sponsored by the gentleman from Alaska. As Members of this body know, the Chairman of the Committee on Resources is a forceful advocate for his Alaska constituents.

The bill before the House today has improved in numerous respects from the version reported by the Committee last April. As a result of changes made to accommodate NOAA's concerns, it is my understanding that the Administration supports the bill as amended.

The history of our involvement in the Pribilof Islands, as is the case with many Alaska matters, is long and complex. Prior to the purchase of Alaska in 1867, Aleut Natives had been enslaved by the Russians to exploit fur seals. In 1910, Congress passed a law which regulated the seal harvest and provided federal support for the Native residents of the islands of St. Paul and St. George. With the Fur Seal Act of 1965, and substantial amendments to that Act in 1983, Congress has attempted to provide for a transition from federal management to local control and self-sufficiency on these remote islands.

Clearly, it is vital that the government meet its obligations to the people of the Pribilofs, including the timely completion of environmental cleanup of contaminated federal property. With the changes that have been incorporated, this legislation is intended to responsibly close out the U.S. obligations and liabilities on the Pribilof Islands as established under the Fur Seal Act.

In an attempt to strike a responsible balance in this bill, there are now caps on the amounts authorized for the economic assistance grants to the Native entities and local governments. At the request of the Minority, auditing and reporting requirements have been included for these grants. Minority concerns have also been addressed by language stating that funds authorized by this bill should not supplant NOAA appropriations as enacted in FY 2000. NOAA programs such as severe weather forecasting and the management of commercial fisheries benefit every region of the country. This language affirms the intent of Congress that funding for concluding the transition in the Pribilofs should not come at the expense of other important NOAA programs.

Mr. Speaker, I again commend the gentleman from Alaska and his staff for working with all interested parties to improve this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3417 as amended.

CLEVELAND POLICE OFFICER WAYNE ALLAN LEON**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the memory of Cleveland Police Officer Wayne Allan Leon, badge number 1338. Officer Leon was tragically killed in the line of duty on Sunday, June 25. He was just 32 years old.

Wayne Allen Leon was appointed to the Cleveland Police Department in the 110th Academy Class, February 1, 1994. He graduated from the police academy on June 9, 1994, and was assigned to the Third District, basic patrol. He soon distinguished himself as a police officer, going well beyond the call of duty to serve the public, in ways that were recognized by his peers and superiors. As an officer of the law, he dedicated his life to serve and protect the citizens of the state of Ohio and of this great nation. Quick with a smile, earnest, honest, sincere and extremely dedicated are but a few of the qualities that distinguished Officer Leon. He held his office with great professionalism, bravery and dignity, earning the respect and love of his colleagues